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Semelai language

Semelai is an Austroasiatic language spoken in the Malay Peninsula. It belongs to the Southern branch of the Aslian language subgrouping. The Semelai reside predominantly around the Bera, Serting and associated river systems in the states of Pahang, Negeri Sembilan and Johor.

Semelai	
Native to	Malaysia
Region	Malay Peninsula
Ethnicity	6,300 (2008)[1]
Native speakers	4,100 (2009)[1]
Language family	Austroasiatic ▪ Aslian ▪ Southern Aslian ▪ **Semelai**
Writing system	Latin script
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	`sza`
Glottolog	`seme1247 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/seme1247)`[2]

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Phonology

Semelai has 32 consonants and 20 vowels.[3]

Consonants

		Bilabial			Alveolar			Palatal			Velar		Glottal
		plain	aspirated	preglottalized	plain	aspirated	preglottalized	plain	aspirated	preglottalized	plain	aspirated	
Stop	voiceless	p	pʰ		t	tʰ		c	cʰ		k	kʰ	ʔ
	voiced	b			d			ɟ			g		
Fricative					s								h
Nasal	voiceless	m̥			n̥						ŋ̊		
	voiced	m		ʔm	n		ʔn	ɲ		ʔɲ	ŋ		
Approximant					l		ʔl	j		ʔj	w		
Trill					r		ʔr						

Notes

1. Semelai (https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/sza/) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Semelai" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/seme1247). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Kruspe (2004)

References

- Hoe, Ban Seng (2001). Baer, Adela S.; Gianno, Rosemary (eds.). *Semelai Communities at Tasek Bera: A Study of the Structure of an Orang Asli Society*. Subang Jaya, Malaysia: Centre for Orang Asli Concerns. ISBN 983-40042-3-0.
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- Kruspe, Nicole (2004). "Adjectives in Semelai". In Dixon, R. M. W.; A. Y. Aikhenvald (eds.). *Adjective Classes: a cross-linguistic typology* (https://archive.org/details/adjectiveclasses00dixo_002). Oxford: Oxford University Press. pp. 283 (https://archive.org/details/adjectiveclasses00dixo_002/page/n305)–305.

External links

- http://projekt.ht.lu.se/rwaai RWAAI (Repository and Workspace for Austroasiatic Intangible Heritage)
- http://hdl.handle.net/10050/00-0000-0000-0003-66E3-8@view Semelai in RWAAI Digital Archive

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This page was last edited on 31 May 2020, at 14:40 (UTC).

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